

This section does not repeal the statute of 9th Anne, ch. 14, making void security given for gambling debts; such security is void, though in hands of *bona fide* purchaser for value. If the security is originally void under 9th Anne, ch. 14, it is not affected by the circumstance that obligor later becomes convinced that he did not lose the money for which the security was given. Relief in equity. *Gough v. Pratt*, 9 Md. 532.

An. Code, 1924, sec. 255. 1912, sec. 225. 1904, sec. 211. 1888, sec. 128. 1842, ch. 190, sec. 4. 1853, ch. 265, sec. 2.

**299.** All games, devices and contrivances at which money or any other thing shall be bet or wagered shall be deemed a gaming table within the meaning of sections 288, 289, 290, 296, 297 and 298.

The keeping of rooms for the sale of pools on horse races and the selling of such pools or tickets is not indictable under this section, or secs. 288, 289 and 296. It is the playing of a game of chance which makes a gaming table criminal. How a criminal statute should be construed. (But see sec. 291, *et seq.*) *James v. State*, 63 Md. 251 (*cf.* dissenting opinions).

An. Code, 1924, sec. 256. 1912, sec. 226. 1904, sec. 212. 1888, sec. 129. 1853, ch. 265, sec. 2. 1900, ch. 348. 1904, ch. 183.

**300.** Any person who shall play for money or any other thing the game called "Thimbles" or what is called the "Little Joker" or at dice, or the game commonly called "Crap," or any other device or fraudulent trick whatsoever, on conviction thereof, shall be imprisoned not less than six months nor more than two years in the Maryland house of correction or fined not exceeding one hundred dollars, or both, in the discretion of the court.

An. Code, 1924, sec. 257. 1912, sec. 227. 1904, sec. 213. 1888, sec. 130. 1842, ch. 190, sec. 6.

**301.** The courts shall construe the preceding sections relating to gambling and betting liberally, so as to prevent the mischiefs intended to be provided against.

This section applies to all statutes to prevent gambling, including those enacted after passage of this section. *Gaither v. Cate*, 156 Md. 254.

See notes to sec. 299.

1939, ch. 701.

**302.** Nothing in this sub-title shall be construed to make it unlawful for any *bona fide* fraternal, religious, or charitable organizations or corporations, or volunteer fire company operating in communities which have no paid fire department, to conduct or operate a game of bingo for the benefit of charity in Allegany County, or in furtherance of the purposes of such organizations, corporations or volunteer fire department.<sup>1</sup>

1939, ch. 716.

**303.** Nothing in this sub-title shall be construed to make it unlawful for any person, organization or corporation to operate or conduct the game of bingo where prizes of merchandise only are given and where no prize of a greater value than ten dollars (\$10.00) is offered or given in any one game and where the entire net proceeds are devoted to charitable purposes exclusively. Before the game of Bingo may be played in Baltimore City, it shall be necessary to obtain a permit for same after application shall have been made to the Police Commissioner of said City, and when the said Police Commissioner issues said permit, he shall receive a fee of

<sup>1</sup> Sec. 2, ch. 701, 1939, repealed all laws inconsistent therewith to extent of such inconsistency.